

## **Call for City Resolutions in Support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (CalFresh, formerly food stamps) is the cornerstone of the nation's nutrition and food security safety net, helping to put food on the table for more than 42 million low-income participants each month—including over 4 million low-income Californians. This September marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing and passage of the bi-partisan Food Stamp Act of 1977.

Yet proposals pending at the federal level threaten to undermine SNAP's effectiveness and instead increase food insecurity in communities across the country. In 2018, Congress will reauthorize the Farm Bill—the primary federal investment in the country's largest anti-hunger programs including SNAP and other core programs that provide vital nutrition for our nation's children, working families, seniors and other vulnerable populations.

**Please join in the effort to protect and strengthen SNAP by issuing a city resolution or statement from your mayor, city council and other officials.**

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has proposed and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are considering making drastic cuts to, and changes to the structure of the benefit entitlements provided by, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our nation's first line of defense against hunger; and

WHEREAS, the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) estimates that [] percent' of all [state] households struggle to put food on the table; and SNAP is currently the nutritional lifeline for nearly [#] of [state] residents, and

WHEREAS, SNAP is targeted to the most vulnerable households in our communities, with the average income of beneficiary households at only 59 percent of the federal poverty line and 82 percent of SNAP benefits going to households with a child, senior, or disabled person; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2016 [#] food retail establishments in [state] redeemed a total of [\$] in federal SNAP benefits; and

WHEREAS, SNAP not only benefits low-income families, it also helps the businesses that serve our low and moderate-income communities;

WHEREAS, based on USDA research, every \$1 increase in federal SNAP benefits generates \$1.79 in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, federal cuts to SNAP would exacerbate the problem of food insecurity and shift unmanageable costs to states, localities, charities and hungry families themselves; and

WHEREAS, for most households, SNAP benefits already are not adequate and run out before the end of the month, forcing families to rely on emergency food programs that are already stretched beyond capacity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, [] urges the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to strengthen, not weaken, our nation's nutrition safety net and to preserve the structure of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as an entitlement program with adequate funding for it to maintain and improve its assistance to those struggling against hunger.

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Food Insecurity By State: <http://frac.org/research/resource-library/prevalence-food-insecurity-low-food-security-state-2013-2015>

State-by-State SNAP participation: <http://frac.org/research/resource-library/snap-monthly-data-2017>

Retailer data at page 3: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/snap/2016-SNAP-Retailer-Management-Year-End-Summary.pdf>

Subject line: Request for Local SNAP/CalFresh Support Resolutions

Dear [STAFFER NAME],

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (CalFresh, formerly food stamps) is the cornerstone of the nation's nutrition safety net, helping more than 4 million low-income Californians put food on the table and make ends meet. This September also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the bi-partisan Food Stamp Act of 1977, yet proposals pending at the federal level threaten to undermine SNAP's effectiveness and instead increase food insecurity in communities across California.

The [Trump Administration's FY 2018 budget](#) proposes slashing ten-year SNAP spending by \$193 billion, increasing hunger statewide and shifting significant program costs to state and local governments.

City officials are among an increasingly diverse set of stakeholders speaking out in support of SNAP and resolutions from mayors and city councils can help educate key federal policymakers about how SNAP is important to residents and local economies in [INSERT CITY OR COUNTY].

Attached is a draft SNAP support resolution template with links to data sources for localizing SNAP support resolutions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

NAME

ORGANIZATION